

4-11 Feb 1945

Yalta Conference

The Big Three Allied leaders—Winston CHURCHILL, Franklin D. ROOSEVELT, and Joseph STALIN—met at the Crimean city of Yalta, Feb. 4-11, 1945, to plan the final months of World War II and to discuss the organization of the postwar world. They reaffirmed an earlier agreement to press for unconditional surrender of the Axis powers.

Roosevelt obtained from the USSR a promise to declare war against Japan 90 days after the surrender of Germany. In turn, the United States supported Soviet acquisition of territories lost in the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-05 (southern Sakhalin Island and the Kuril Islands) and Soviet dominance in Outer Mongolia and Manchuria.

The Big Three agreed to meet in San Francisco later in the year to complete plans for the new United Nations organization. The USSR at first insisted on a separate UN vote for each of the Soviet republics but settled for a total of three votes. Stalin also withdrew his insistence that the great powers be able to veto discussion of any issue by the proposed security council. All agreed that the great powers could veto any substantive security council action.

The conferees completed plans for the four-power military occupation of Germany but reached no agreement on permanent peace provisions. They endorsed free elections and political independence for the liberated nations of Europe, but they did not establish an effective plan with which to ensure that goal.

Although the Yalta agreements—which were widely criticized—were presented to the world behind an idealistic facade of Allied unity, they reflected the realities of world power.

Alonzo L. Hamby

Bibliography: Buhite, R. D., *Decisions at Yalta* (1986); Gardner, Lloyd C., *Spheres of Influence: The Great Powers Partition Europe, From Munich to Yalta* (1991); Laloy, J., *Yalta* (1990); Snell, John, et al., eds., *The Meaning of Yalta* (1956); Theoharis, Athan, *The Yalta Myths* (1970).

YALTA CONFERENCE was a meeting held early in 1945, between the leaders of the "Big Three" Allied nations. On February 4, President Franklin D. Roosevelt of the United States, Prime Minister Winston Churchill of Great Britain, and Premier Joseph Stalin of Russia met at the Livadia, an estate near Yalta, a famous Black Sea resort in the Crimea.

On February 11, the three leaders issued a statement. They agreed on plans to occupy Germany, set up a new Polish government, and hold the San Francisco Conference to form the United Nations. They again endorsed the Atlantic Charter.

Later reports of the Conference revealed that Stalin had promised that Russia would declare war on Japan within three months after Germany's surrender. In return for this promise, Russia was promised the Kuril Islands and the southern part of Sakhalin Island, which Japan then controlled, as well as other concessions. Russia did declare war on Japan, but only after the first atomic bomb had fallen on Hiroshima. It also seized

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Manchuria and North Korea, and set the stage for the Korean War. The Russians did not allow free elections to be held in Poland as they had agreed, and they used the Yalta agreements to enslave millions of people.

The Conference led to much political controversy in the United States. In March, 1955, the Department of State released the Yalta Papers, which told the full story of the Conference.

PAYSON S. WILD

See also SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE.

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YALOBUSHA RIVER

oldest college daily newspaper in the United States. The *Yale Literary Magazine*, founded in 1836, was the first undergraduate magazine published in the nation.

Educational System. Yale has 12 divisions, each under the supervision of its own dean and faculty. The divisions of the university include Yale College; the graduate school; and the schools of art, architecture, divinity, drama, forestry, law, medicine, music, nursing, and organization and management.

The Corporation of Yale University governs the school. The corporation consists of the university president, the governor and lieutenant governor of Connecticut, and 16 *fellows* (trustees).

History. Yale was founded in 1701, when 10 Connecticut clergymen met in the village of Branford and made a gift of books to found a college. Later that year, the General Assembly of Connecticut approved a charter for the *Collegiate School*. From 1702 to 1707, classes met in the home of Rector Abraham Pierson at Killingworth (now Clinton).

Classes were held in Milford and then Saybrook before the school moved to New Haven in 1716. Two years later, the school's only college building was still unfinished because of a lack of funds. Elihu Yale, a retired merchant in London, contributed money to the school in 1718 (see YALE, ELIHU). Yale is sometimes called *Old Eli*. The same year, the school adopted its present name in honor of Yale. The undergraduate school, known as Yale College, was open only to men until 1969. For the enrollment of the university, see UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES (table).

Critically reviewed by YALE UNIVERSITY

See also CONNECTICUT (picture); LIBRARY (picture: A Rare Book Collection); UNITED STATES (picture: Beinecke).

YALOBUSHA RIVER. See YAZOO RIVER.

YALOW, ROSALYN. See NOBEL PRIZES (table: Nobel Prizes for Physiology or Medicine—1977).

YALTA, YAH L tuh (pop. 63,000), is a seaport in the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, a republic of Russia. It is a favorite Russian winter resort. The city is at the southern tip of the Crimean Peninsula beside the Black Sea. For location, see RUSSIA (political map).

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YALU RIVER, YAH LOO, rises from the highest peak of the Changpai Shan, or Long White Mountains, of Manchuria. The river forms most of the boundary between North Korea and Manchuria as it flows 500 miles (800 kilometers) to the Yellow Sea. The river became important during the Korean War (1950-1953). Chinese Communists crossed the Yalu in mid-October, 1950, to aid North Korea in the war.

J. E. SPENCER

YAM is a plant that has thick roots much like those of the sweet potato. For this reason, juicy varieties of sweet potatoes are often wrongly called yams. The thick roots of yams are a major food crop in many tropical countries. They contain mostly water. Most of the solid matter is starch and sugar. The root has less starch than the white potato, but more sugar. Some kinds of yams are not fit to eat, but they produce substances called *sapogenins* that can be used to make drugs such as cortisone.



A. W. Ambler, National Audubon Society

Yams

Yam plants are climbing vines that bear small, green flower clusters. Cuttings of the vine or sections of roots are usually planted to start new vines. Cuttings should be planted in widely spaced rows to give the roots room to grow. Yams require a long growing season and hot, moist weather.

About 20 million short tons (18 million metric tons) of yams are grown for food each year. About half of them are grown in western Africa. Yams are also grown in India and in the countries of Southeast Asia and the Caribbean Sea. Few yams are grown for food in the United States, because the weather is too cold and the growing season is too short. See also SWEET POTATO.

Scientific Classification. Yams belong to the yam family, *Dioscoreaceae*. The edible yam is genus *Dioscorea*. A common species is *D. alata*.

TEME P. HERNANDEZ

YAMACRAW BLUFF. See GEORGIA (Places to Visit).

YAMAMOTO, YAH muh MOH toh, ISOROKU (1884-1943), commanded the Japanese combined fleet at the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. He was one of Japan's great admirals, with a long and distinguished career in war and peace. He opposed the policies that led to war with the United States. But he sponsored the planning that led to the Pearl Harbor attack as Japan's only chance of victory. Yamamoto was born in Niigata. He was killed in 1943 when his plane was shot down in the South Pacific.

MARIUS B. JANSEN

YAMASHITA, yuh MAH shee tah, TOMOBUMI (1885-1946), a Japanese general in World War II, was executed for "violation of the laws of war." A brilliant field

Allied leaders (left to right) Winston Churchill, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and Joseph Stalin planned the final phase of World War II at Yalta (Feb. 4-11, 1945). Concessions granted in return for Soviet entry into the Pacific war prompted much criticism during the cold-war era. (U.S. Department of Defense)